

We all have heard about incredible inventors such as Thomas Edison, Bill Gates, Steve Job's, and Albert Einstein. These great people have left an incredible mark on science for generations to come. A similar contemporary inventor is someone we all have heard off in news papers or seen on television. He is none other than Mohannad Abudayyah, a young undergraduate student at King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals (KFUPM).

I had the honor and opportunity of meeting him in February 2011, and had a very interesting chat with him. Mohannad greeted me very cordially, and we sat ourselves down on comfortable sofas across a square table. We ordered two strawberry shakes, and started the long-awaited meeting.

I began by congratulating him on having a son recently. After that our focus turned towards his studies and engineering program at KFUPM. Mohannad is currently doing his third year in Industrial engineering. His studies at the university are only part of all that he does. He runs a company, works for Saudi Telecom Company (STC), gives lectures in universities all around the kingdom, writes books, and much more. He is a very talented individual who has achieved a lot so far, and is striving to accomplish a lot more. I asked him how he managed all this so

efficiently at this age, and he replied that his unwavering faith in God was the secret. I am sure he was being modest by calling himself not very smart. To write 9 books on inventions, win gold medals in competitions, establish a successful and growing company, do engineering in spite of a disability, is not the work of an ordinary individual. He broadcasts his achievements on television, and plans to start his own television show, in which he will challenge young students to answer questions about inventions, and get prizes.

The lowest point in the meeting was the one in which we talked about Mohannad's accident in April 2008. He was fixing his car by the yellow colored emergency spot on the road. A maniac driver, who was driving his car at high speed and going zigzag, crashed into Mohannad's car from behind, crushing him as he stood on the front of his car. Mohannad found himself into a serious coma that lasted three weeks. He found his right leg missing, and the doctors told him that he would never be able to see again. All of us crib in small crisis, but this incredible and brave boy showed the world that there is nothing like hopelessness. After recovering from a series of surgeries, he set out to find a job. He did not depend on his family for any money, and approached KACST in Riyadh. He conducted several workshops for people there, and taught

them how to be inventors. He then moved on to set up his own consultancy company and started going from place to place to deliver lectures. He soon found himself wanting to continue his studies at KFUPM, but got a lot of resistance from the authorities there. He requested them to grant him the chance of a semester to prove himself, and then decide as they pleased. Mohannad's determination and perseverance proved the authorities wrong, and he is doing his sixth semester now.

By the end of the meeting I concluded that Mohannad was an individual who was unique to this world, and a source of inspiration to all of us. He not only taught us how to lead one's life in every circumstance, but also how to smile in the worst and best of times. He radiates hope and energy into everyone he meets, and I felt very enlightened after my lovely meeting with him.